

Vermont Town Forest Recreation Planning

Wetland Outdoor Education Facilities

Key Attribute #:



Need #:



Estimated Cost:

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Timing:

Short/Medium-Term

Woodbury Elementary School is seeking to distinguish itself with a robust, unparalleled outdoor education offering. The school is well-located for that, with the wetland and a small forest adjacent to it. The wetland spans a parcel owned by the town and a parcel owned by the school. The two should collaborate to develop infrastructure that facilitates productive, educational outdoor school experiences. These improvements are primarily located on the parcel owned by the school.

A nature interpretive trail around the wetland would teach students about the trees, botany, and natural features around them. Interpretive signage should be placed along the trail that identifies trees and explains the ecology. The signage should be geared towards elementary school students and older students could even be involved in creating the signs. The existing trail along the wetland may need to be upgraded with boardwalks and bridges in some areas.

An outdoor classroom will allow school groups to gather outside for instruction. The school has already received a grant for this project and this project is underway. The space should have log benches or earthen mounds where students could sit and learn at the beginning and end of wetland outings or simply for class on a nice day.

A pier/boardwalk along the edge of the wetland will be a dry space for classes to gather and observe the wetland up close. As with the outdoor classroom, the town, school district, and Friends of Woodbury Elementary School should jointly apply for grants. This outdoor educational infrastructure will likely draw other local schools to take field trips to Woodbury.

Responsibility:

Elementary School/Conservation Commission

Partners Involved:

Planning Required:

Funding Opportunities:

Toolkit Resources

Programming Partnerships

Sustainable Facility Standards

Sustainable Trail Standards

Interpretation Guidance Toolkit

Natural Resource Guidance Toolkit

